Concessional travel facilities to the staff of Air India

918. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Air-India Staff families were stranded recently in Singapore Airport for want of seats in Air-India flights for their return journey ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken to regulate the concessional travel facilities to the staff to avoid over-crowding ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) A number of Air India employees and members of their family were stranded at Singapore airport in May, 1993. These employees were having free tickets, which were valid for travel on "space available" basis. Due to spurt of demand at Singapore from fare paying passengers, these employees, who held free tickets could not be accommodated and had to stay at Singapore airport.

(c) As a result of this incident, Air India has taken steps to close flights to Singapore for travel by Staff, prior to commencement of the peak season.

Foreign investment in Indian Aviation companies

919. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the proposal for foreign equity investment in Indian Aviation Companies upto a maximum of 40 percent ;

(b) whether Government have considered the security implications of such foreign involvement in Indian aviation ;

(c) whether Government are aware that such investment goes against the Air Corporations Act ; and

(d) if so, what steps Government intend to take to resolve this anomalous situation and what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) An investment proposal proposting 40% foreign equity participation, in the holding company owning M/s Jet Airways, a private Air Taxi operator, has been approved by the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Since Air Taxi operators are permitted only to provide non-scheduled and/or chartered services, the investment approval given by the Government does not violate the provisions of the Air Corporations Act, 1953.

World Bank Study on losses of Indian Airlines

920. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has pointed out various reasons for the growing accumulated losses of the Indian Airlines including excess staffing and competition from private air services ;

(b) if so, what were the precise reasons pointed out by the World Bank ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to take Indian Airlines out of the red ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) No such report has been received.

(c) To reduce losses, the following steps have been taken by Indian Airlines :

(i) Improvement in customer services ; both on ground and on board the aircraft.

(ii) Introduction of schemes like Fly More and Fly Free, Point to Point Fares, Domestic Tour Packages, etc.

(iii) Close monitoring of 'On-Time Performance'.

(iv) Changes in marketing strategy, including productivity linked incentive for agents,

(v) Providing convenient scheduled air services.

(vi) Stepping up utilisation of the fleet.

(vii) Increased international operations. and

(viii) Control of unproductive expenditure.

वायुदूत और इंडियन एयरलाइन्स का विलय

921. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह :** क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री 5 अगस्त, 1993 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 1389 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सभी औपचारिकताओं को पूरा करने के बाद वायुदूत और इंडियन एयरलाइन्स का विलय कर दिया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या इसका पूरी तरह से विलय हो गया है; और

(ग) यदि उपर्युक्त भाग (ख) का उत्तर "हां" में हो तो यह विलय कब किया गया था और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है ?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद) : (क) से (ग) वायुदूत के पृथक न्यायिक अस्तित्व को समाप्त करने के लिये अभी कानूनी औपचारिकताएं पूरी की जानी हैं।

Joint Operation between Air India and Gulf Air Operating for Trivandrum

922. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any joint operation between Air India and Gulf Air operating for Trivandrum ;

(b) what are the details of agreement between the two ;

(c) on what basis Gulf Air got the landing right in Trivandrum ;

(d) how much foreign Exchange has gone to Gulf Air due to Trivandrum landing right ; and

(e) whether some other foreign carriers have applied for the same rights ; if so, the reasons for which they were not granted the rights ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Gulf Air is operating two services per week to Trivandrum under a Joint Venture Agreement with Air India.

(b) Under the Joint Venture Agreement, revenues and costs are shared equally subject to Air India receiving a minimum guaranteed return as the participating partner.

(c) In the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 30-4-91 between India on the one hand and United Arab Emirates, Oman,, Bahrain and Qatar on the other hand Gulf Air, has been granted access to Trivandrum.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(e) In the past, a few airlines had requested for operations to Trivandrum. These requests, however, were not pursued by them. Recently, Oman Air has been allowed to operate services to/from Trivandrum with capacity limited to 500 seats per week.